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Japan: Militant leftist students will probably attempt to foment violence during the visit of the US nuclear powered submarine Plunger, which is scheduled to arrive in Sasebo on Wednesday.

Police officials estimate that extremist factions of the leftist student confederation Zengakuren will be able to mobilize some 2,000-3,000 activists. These elements engaged in bloody clashes with police units protecting US Navy facilities when the carrier Enterprise visited Sasebo last January.

The Japanese Socialist and Communist parties and leftist unions are also planning large-scale demonstrations. Although these are intended to be nonviolent, they will complicate security efforts. Japanese security officials are confident that they can protect US property and personnel, but clashes between students and the police are probably unavoidable.

The Plunger's three-day visit is the first by a US nuclear powered submarine to Japan since the Swordfish called last May. The leftist opposition, abetted by distorted press accounts, raised a hue and cry over alleged contamination of Sasebo harbor by the Swordfish. The opposition is likely to dust off these phony charges, which play upon the highly sensitive "nuclear allergy" of the Japanese public, during the current Diet session.

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UK-Nigeria: London's latest peace effort has fizzled. The British, nevertheless, believe the visit to Lagos of a special emissary, Lord Shepherd, was useful, even though his specific proposals were rejected.

General Gowon refused to consider a general cease-fire and advised against London's sending a high-level emissary to meet with the Biafran leader, Colonel Ojukwu. The atmosphere of the meeting was cordial, however, and the British reiterated their support for Nigerian unity and their desire not to cut across OAU efforts to resolve the conflict.

The initiative helped to relieve pressure in Britain for a change of policy on Nigeria. The government emerged relatively unscathed from a foreign policy debate on the subject in the House of Commons late last week.

The British are considering further initiatives. The French may be reassessing their policy but have given no indication that they are going to stop supplying arms to Biafra. The British will sound out the French position today during one of the semi-annual meetings the two countries hold on Africa.

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NOTE

USSR-Ghana: The Soviet ambassador in Accra has raised the threat of a break in diplomatic relations over the continued detention of two Soviet trawlers and 53 crewmen. Although Moscow's initial reaction to the seizure was restrained, the increased pressure is a sign that Soviet patience is wearing thin.

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[REDACTED] there is no indication as yet of when the trawlers and crews will be released. [REDACTED]

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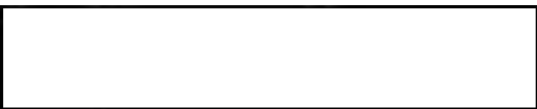
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